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Conclave 1982 at Iowa State

Next fall the Iowa State University Forestry Club will be hosting the 31st Annual Midwestern Forester's Conclave.

Conclave was originated in 1951 by the foresters at the University of Michigan. Since then it has been an annual event with 12 schools involved on a rotating-host basis.

In this, the thirty-first year of competition Iowa State foresters will be hosting approximately 200 foresters from all over the midwest. Schools participating this year are: University of Missouri, University of Minnesota, Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Purdue University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, and Ohio State University.

In October of 1981 a committee was formed to organize the upcoming conclave at Iowa State. Some of the decisions already made include scheduling the date, finding a location, and soliciting funds.

The 31st Annual Conclave will begin on Saturday, October 23 at 8 a.m. The events will be held approximately five miles from Luther, Iowa at a 4-H camp near a scenic horseshoe bend in the Des Moines River. Over 200 letters have been sent out to prospective donors. The responses are being eagerly awaited.

The committee also is delegating many specific tasks to subcommittees. Overall the goal is towards greater departmental and community involvement.

Although Iowa State is not known as a powerhouse in Conclave events, the organizers are working hard to insure a first-class experience.

Christmas Tree Sales

With a light snow falling and the freshly-cut scent of red, Scotch, and white pines in the air, an early Christmas spirit set the mood for the Forestry Club's annual Christmas tree sale. With many customers from both the Ames community and the student body, the sale activities ran for less than a week but during this time over 500 trees were sold and more than \$1800 was raised for club events.

Located in front of the Memorial Union along Lincoln Way, the beginning sales were marked by three curious figures dragging a hefty twelve-foot red pine up towards the Knoll. It may have appeared to some that these three were Christmas tree poachers on their way to fill their freshman initiation rite. In actuality, this was the fulfillment of a longstanding sales tradition with the presentation of a tree to the university's President Parks.

Although the highlight of the event was the sale itself, most of the activity and planning occurred during the six months prior to it. The greatest proportion of time was spent searching for suitable sources of trees. Many of the trees were once again purchased from Muriel and Eldon Weber who operate a Christmas tree farm in Geneseo, Illinois. A hearty thanks must be extended to these folks for their high-quality trees and their warm hospitality. The remaining trees purchased were from Merrilan, Wisconsin.

While the trees from Wisconsin were to be shipped directly to us, it was necessary to transport the Weber's trees from Illinois ourselves. Equipped with only a pickup truck and a horse trailer, we somehow managed to stuff in all 175 trees purchased. When the Wisconsin trees arrived back in Ames, the horse trailer became stuck in the mud. After much head-scratching and perspiration from both faculty and students, the truck finally inched its way out of the slippery predicament, but not without first having to move hundreds of trees out of the way to allow for the truck's escape.

The trees were then placed into cool, dark storage, thanks to the benevolence of Jerry Grebasch who gave us ample space at the state nursery facilities.

There had been some concern of whether or not the two to four-foot trees would sell since the "no Christmas tree" policy was enacted in the dorms. However, all the trees seemed to sell quickly, especially at the onset of the final days when people like Al Wimmer revived the "Let's Make A Deal" semblance.

Even with the nearing of the last days of the sale, most of us wondered whether we would make it out of the red. We had only a few positive "guesstimates" to base our hopes on. With the number wizardry of our club treasurer, the totals came in and we came out way ahead of what we had imagined. This, along with the worker's banquet, put a final close to this year's episode of the continuing saga of Christmas tree sales.